

# YOUTH DEPARTMENT

## State Youth Director

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## WEBSITES

WA State Grange Youth Department – includes applications for all state Grange

youth programs: [www.wa-grange.com](http://www.wa-grange.com)

National Grange Youth Department – 2024 Grange Youth Program and Contest Handbook includes applications for all national grange programs: [www.nationalgrangeyouth.org](http://www.nationalgrangeyouth.org)

Facebook Group: Washington State Grange Youth

## YOUTH DEPARTMENT CALENDAR FOR 2024

**February 5-6:** State Grange Junior/Youth Legislative Experience in Olympia

**April 26-28:** Western Regional Grange Leadership/Youth Conference – hosted by the Washington State Grange in Yakima

**June 1:** Notify State Youth Director of intent to enter the following:

- Horizon Youth Ambassador and Young Patron Program
- Outstanding Young Adult
- Sign-a-Song Contest
- Public Speaking Contest – prepared speeches
- \*Spirit of Youth Award
- \*Youth Community Service Award
- \*Junior Mentor Award

**June 26-30:** State Grange Convention @ Northeast Washington Fairgrounds in Colville. Bring items for the Keep Washington Warm Service Project and Grange Youth Display Contest Entries

**August 1:** All applications for the following due to the State Youth Director:

•John Trimble Legislative Experience

•National Grange Youth Officer Team

**August 15:** Applications due to National Youth Director for the following:

•Distinguished Grange Youth Program

•Horizon Youth Leadership Ambassador

•National Grange Youth Officer Team

•John Tribble Legislative Experience

•GRANGE Youth Pillar Project

**November 12-16:** National Grange Convention in Bettendorf, Iowa

## MISSION STATEMENT FOR THE YOUTH DEPARTMENT

The Youth Department exists to serve the interests of young Grange members and foster their role in the future of the Grange.

## STATE GRANGE YOUTH OFFICERS

The Washington State Grange Youth Officers are elected at State Convention with installation to follow. To be eligible to be a State Youth Officer, you must be a fourth-degree member in good standing. Each person can hold any given office for only one year. There is a limit of three officers per county, if possible, to give everyone a chance to become an officer. State Youth Officers' duties consist of opening, conducting business, and closing Youth meetings at convention; helping with the planning and running of Youth Weekend; and attending their own Subordinate and Pomona meetings as well as

others in their area. They will be called on to speak to other groups about the Grange and represent the Grange at other functions and meetings. You are representatives of the Grange and the Youth Department!!!

### **STATE CONVENTION**

The youth activities during convention are open to all fourth-degree members in good standing.

The Youth Department of the Washington State Grange will not be responsible for youth not in attendance of youth functions, or in the evenings after all youth activities are over for the day. Each youth under the age of 18 must have a responsibility form on file with the Washington State Grange. The person signing the responsibility form must be over the age of 21 and staying for the entire convention.

The responsibility form requires the name and convention address of the person responsible for the youth attending the convention. Any youth attending convention and participating in youth activities must be registered and wear the registration badge to all functions. Each youth will need a completed medical release form to register. The youth badge is required to attend all youth activities.

**DRESS GUIDELINES:** Everyone will be dressed neatly (clean, no holes, tears or unsightly patches). We suggest at least one dress shirt (tie recommended) and slacks for men and at least one dressy outfit

for women. Appropriate casual dress will be fine most of the time.

### **KEEP WASHINGTON WARM YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT**



In cooperation with the State Grange Community Service Department, our Grange youth members will be collecting stocking caps, mittens, gloves, scarves, etc. for distribution to the less fortunate in our state. Items may be purchased or hand made. Donations should be delivered to the State Grange Convention. Grange youth will display the items and then distribute the items in the host convention area following the convention.

### **HORIZON LEADERSHIP YOUTH AMBASSADOR and YOUNG PATRON PROGRAM**

The purpose of the Horizon Leadership Ambassador/Young Patron program is to provide an opportunity for Youth and Young Adults, ages 16-25, to be selected to represent our state at the National Grange convention, to build their leadership potential; broaden their view of the Grange by experiencing a National Convention; receive educational training to use in their own states; and build relationships with Grangers throughout the nation by having fun.

The Washington State Grange Youth Department will reimburse for the cost of airfare to the national convention site. Details

for eligibility and selection process can be found in the National Grange Youth Program Guide and the WA State Grange Youth Program Guide.

### **WASHINGTON STATE SPIRIT OF YOUTH AWARD**

This award is designed to honor those who have given unselfishly of themselves to Youth Programs. Often these people are behind the scenes, never receiving recognition, but always have the needs of Youth in their plans. The Spirit of Youth Award is an award of distinction, an honor of prestige.

Rules: Nominees can be single or married. Nominees can be of any age. Nominations should take the form of a letter to the Youth Director explaining why this person/couple should be recognized for this award. Nominations are due to the State Youth Director postmarked by May 15th. The award will be given during State Convention.

### **JOHN TRIMBLE YOUTH LEGISLATIVE EXPERIENCE**

National Convention Youth Legislative Experience will provide opportunities for one or two Grange Youth, age 16-25, with an interest in the legislative aspect of the National Grange to see the inner workings of committees and the grass roots legislative policy development effort at the National Grange Convention. Details for eligibility and selection process can be found in the National Grange Youth Program Guide.

## **NATIONAL GRANGE YOUTH OFFICER TEAM/COUNCIL**

Purpose: To assemble a team of Youth from across the nation to open the National Grange convention on Friday morning at the annual session. This will provide more youth with an opportunity to participate in the National Grange convention. Details for eligibility and selection process can be found in the National Grange Youth Program Guide.

## **PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST**



There will be three categories this year along with three age divisions are as follows:

- 14-20 years of age
- 21-25 years of age
- 26+ years of age

The age of the contestant as of January 1 will determine the age group.

### **Category A: Prepared speech**

Contestant's choice of topic. Contestants in Category A will be required to answer an impromptu question at the end of their speech. The questions will be related to the contestant's chosen speech topic. Speeches must be a minimum of 3 minutes and a maximum of 5 minutes.

### **Category B: Impromptu Speeches**

An impromptu speech is delivered without preparation or thought ahead of time. No note cards are

used, and topics are generally drawn. We hope that by establishing an impromptu speech category that members will build confidence and participate in the prepared speeches or the Grange commercial speech category.

Impromptu speeches should be at least one minute in length and not longer than 5 minutes. The timekeeper will hold up hand when the 1-minute mark has been reached and the 4½ minute mark has been reached so speaker knows when he/she can stop.

Participants will draw two topics, select their choice of the two and return the other one. Competition will be held at the Regional Conferences – You need not have participated in a state competition to participate. Participants must notify National Director of intent to enter prior to the beginning of the contest.

Public speaking will be judged on the following criteria:

- Text – content, composition, and topic.
- Delivery – voice, command of audience, stage presence, expression, mannerisms, and gestures.
- Impromptu Answer – response.
- Other – Time limit, speech outline. Etc.

One point will be deducted for every 30 seconds a participant is under or over the time established. Score sheet will be returned to entrants.

**WA STATE GRANGE CONTEST INFORMATION:** Participants in Category A (Prepared Speeches)

should notify the State Youth Director by June 1 of their intent to enter the contest. Participants in Category B should notify the State Youth Director prior to the contest at the State Convention. The state contests will be held during the State Grange Convention in June of each year. One Best of Show winner in Category A (Prepared Speeches) will be selected to represent our state at the National Grange Convention in November.

Prizes: State prizes in each age group of Category A (Prepared Speech) are: First Place, \$100; Second Place, \$75; and Third Place, \$50. State prizes in each age group of Category B (Impromptu) are: First Place, \$15; Second Place, \$10; and Third Place, \$5.



## **SIGN-A-SONG CONTEST**

Categories:

A. Individual – either a novice or hobbyist. An individual who is beginning to learn to sign or signs on an occasional basis and strictly for fun.

B. Group – two or more people signing.

### **Rules**

1. Each state may select a Best of Show winner to represent their state at the National Grange Convention.

2. Participants are to supply the contest officials with three copies of the lyrics to their song.
3. Participants must provide their own music. National contestants must provide music to the National Grange Youth Director by November 1.
4. Anyone who is a professional instructor or receives money for signing is ineligible to compete in this contest.
5. Signers must use total communication techniques: sign language, facial expressions, mouthing of words for lip reading, finger spelling if appropriate, and body movement.
6. Participants must be Grange members.
7. Props and costumes are permitted, rhythm is optional.
8. Only one song may be signed during the competition performance.
9. Participants must sign their own name and song title.
10. Participants must inform the audience and judges what type of sign language they will be using. (Pidgeon, ASL, ESL, etc.)

Judging guidelines for a total of 100 points:

- Utilization of Total communication skills (sign language ability, signs clearly with correct interpretation) - 32 points
- Body expression, displays emotion, expresses key thoughts with body movement, mouth words for lip reading -30 points
- Presentation, interpret with confidence, uniformity (group) - 25 points
- Song selection is appropriate, with a clear meaning and is suitable for the participants signing ability - 10 points

- Signed their own name - 1 point
- Signed title of Song - 1 point
- Informed judges and Audience of type of sign language being used - 1 point

#### **WA STATE GRANGE CONTEST INFORMATION:**

Participants should notify the State Youth Director by June 1 of their intent to enter the contest. The state contests will be held during the State Grange Convention in June of each year. One Best of Show winner will be selected to represent our state at the National Grange Convention in November. State prizes in Category A: First Place, \$50; Second Place, \$30; and Third Place, \$20. State prizes in Category B: First Place, \$75; Second Place, \$50; and Third Place, \$25.

#### **COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

This award is given in memory of Wib and June Justi, past National Grange Youth Directors. This award is intended to encourage youth and young adults to interact and serve the communities where they reside. Full details can be found in the National Grange Youth Program Guide.

#### **JUNIOR MENTOR AWARD**

Grange youth and young adults can have a powerful impact on the Grange experience with our youngest members. This award is designed to recognize the Grange youth and young adults that go above and beyond to guide and mentor Junior Grangers. Full details can be found in the National Grange Youth Program Guide.

#### **GRANGE YOUTH DISPLAY CONTEST**

All entrants must be youth or young adult members of a subordinate/community Grange. There will be two age division: Youth – Grange members 14-21 years of age as of January 1; Young Adults – Grange members 22-35 years of age. Full details can be found in the National Grange Youth Program Guide.

WA State Info: All entries are due to the youth meeting room at the State Grange Convention before the opening of the convention. If no entries are received at the convention, the State Youth Committee reserves the right to select state representative entries following the state convention.

#### **GRANGE YOUTH PILLAR PROJECT**

An individual or group, up to three youth/young adults, are challenged to put together an event or project within their subordinate, Pomona or State Grange that aligns with one of the six pillars of GRANGE Youth and track that project throughout the events time frame. The event or project must take place between October 1 and September 20. Once the event or project concludes, youth will put together a project portfolio to show their beginning, during, and end progress. Complete details are available in the National Grange Youth Program Guide.

The Six Pillars of GRANGE Youth are: Growth, Ritual, Action, Networking, Grassroots Advocacy, and Education.

### **GRANGE BASEBALL**

Grange Baseball is an exciting event that brings together youth and young adults interested in Grange trivia and history. Individuals will gain knowledge about the Grange, its history and impact on rural America. This fact sheet serves as a guideline to prepare Grangers for a Grange Baseball competition. Details for eligibility and selection process can be found in the National Grange Youth Program Guide.

### **PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE CONTEST**



The purpose of this contest is to encourage Grange youth and young adults to learn to effectively participate in a business meeting and to assist in the development of their leadership, public speaking, and problem -solving skills. Full details can be found in the National Grange Youth Program Guide.

### **G.R.O.W. CLUB**

“Go Right On Working”

The G.R.O.W. Club is an elite club that is made up of Grange members who have participated in the National Grange Prince, Princess, Young Couple, Ambassador or Horizon Leadership programs or have served as Youth team members or as a National Grange Youth Director. State Grange GROW Club members will meet annually during the State Grange Convention.

### **DISTINGUISHED GRANGE YOUTH PROGRAM**

The Distinguished Youth Program, similar to the National Grange Distinguished Grange Awards Program, was established to encourage our state youth directors to get their youth/young adults to participate in all the programs available to our members as appear in this guide. By being named a Distinguished Youth Program shows your commitment to the youth of our Order, their leadership training, skill enhancement, participation in Grange activities and much more. Only through a strong Grange Youth program can we ensure the vibrant future of our organization.

The Distinguished Youth Program Awards will be presented annually at National Grange Convention and will seek to honor Youth Programs for their work from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. All Distinguished Youth Granges will receive a certificate and be recognized in the annual honors list. Applications are due to the National Grange Youth Director by September 1.



### **ADDITIONAL NATIONAL GRANGE YOUTH PROGRAMS**

Please refer to the National Grange Youth Program Guide for information on the following programs:

- Youth Advocacy Project
- Grassroots Activism Scholarship
- Youth Officer T-Shirt Design Contest
- GROW Club Travel Scholarships
- GROW Club Academic Scholarship

